



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

## Employee/Team Awards Presented to Gomez, Simpson, Website and Sports & Youth Services

**Gaithersburg, MD – (October 9, 2019)** At the Mayor and City Council meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019, Information Technology Project Manager/Systems Analyst Renato Gomez and the Website Conversion Team were presented with Employee Recognition Awards for the first quarter of calendar year 2019, and Recreation Supervisor Charlyn Simpson and the Sports and Youth Services Team were presented awards for the second quarter.

Made up of peers from each department, Gaithersburg's Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) reviews nominations for individuals and teams on a quarterly basis. These winners are then eligible for the annual Employee and Team of the Year Awards.

Renato Gomez, Project Manager/Systems Analyst with the Department of Information Technology, was named Employee of the First Quarter for his dependability and exceptional customer service. Renato has volunteered to assist on many projects, often beyond his responsibilities. He is recognized for his assistance with the GIS Road Centerlines project, which required him to learn new tools for data creation in a short time. Renato also assisted in scanning vehicle tickets on foot and after hours during Winter Lights, standing in the road in the middle of winter weather.

The Website Conversion Team, comprised of Andrew Barnes of the Department of Information Technology and Jeff Baldwin and Irene Hepler of the Department of Community and Public Relations, was named the Team of the First Quarter. The Team was responsible for almost all of the work involved in moving the City's website to a new content management system. This included identifying the scope of work, issuing a request for proposals, identifying a suitable vendor, modifying a site map, developing page templates and new designs, learning and incorporating new functionality, and then transferring all relevant data to the new site. All of this was accomplished while maintaining the old website, which received an average of 90,000 page views every month. The overall process took several months and required tremendous creativity, flexibility, customer service, and dedication.

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## **2 – 2 – 2/Employee Awards**

Charlyn Simpson, Recreation Supervisor with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, was named Employee of the Second Quarter for her efforts as the Benjamin Gaither Center's primary programmer. She is recognized for her work creating classes, lectures, programs, special events, and trips that bring members to the Center, keeping them engaged, healthy and having fun. Her efforts have led the Center to break its all-time attendance record in 2019. Charlyn works with contractors and agencies that provide free services, leads a team that plans special monthly events, and has added many new programs while also planning the Center's biggest annual event, the Active Aging Expo. Her work and dedication exemplify the mission of the Center, the Department and the City.

The Sports and Youth Services Team, comprised of Cynthia Alfaro, Keegan Aragon, Julius Arnold, Monique Comstock, Maura Dinwiddie, Siobhan Halmos, Jake Hersom, Dave Ludington, Rachel Tailby, Sydney Zintchem, and Adam Zuckerman of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, was named the Team of the Second Quarter. The Team is recognized for its exceptional work creating recreational activities that provide a safe and positive experience for youth and establishing a recreational spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. The Team is responsible for many successful activities, including the After School Program located in five elementary schools, the Baile Dance program that introduces young people to cultural arts, the Summer Camp Program, which offers traditional day camp experiences and specialty camps (vocal, studio, leadership development), and the Robertson Park and Olde Towne Youth Centers.

For more information on the Employee Recognition Awards please contact the Office of the City Manager at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

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